

## Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy

**LD 734**      **An Act to Revise the Ogunquit Sewer District Charter**      ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
CARLETON

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 734, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to repeal the charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District and replace that charter. It proposed to rearrange and combine sections of the original charter and to make a number of changes to the charter.

**LD 828**      **An Act to Provide Affordable Access to Information Services  
in All Communities of the State through Enhanced Library and  
School Telecommunications**      PUBLIC 631

Sponsor(s)  
TREAT

Committee Report  
OTP-AM    MAJ  
OTP-AM    MIN

Amendments Adopted  
H-832

LD 828, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to establish a new state policy to promote public access to new telecommunications technologies and information networks. It proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to develop library access plans to promote affordable public access to advanced telecommunications technologies and networks. It would have required the commission to consider a variety of options, including:

1. Reduced telephone rates for qualified public libraries;
2. Reduced service and equipment charges for installation of telephone lines and other equipment installed by a telephone utility for qualified public libraries;
3. Option plans which allow qualified public libraries to purchase blocks of time or to enter into other payment arrangements with a telephone utility; and
4. The development of a special library access fund to which telephone utilities would be required to contribute and that would be available to qualified public libraries to assist in paying the costs of acquiring and using advanced telecommunications technologies.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H832)** is the majority report. It replaced the bill and proposed to repeal an outdated provision requiring the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report. It proposed to establish a new state policy that affordable access to those information services that require a computer and rely on the use of the telecommunications network should be made available in all communities of the State without regard to geographic location. It also proposed to give the Public Utilities Commission the authority to do the following to carry out the goals of the State's telecommunications policy:

1. To require a telecommunications carrier offering intrastate telecommunications services to provide telecommunications services, including instruction and equipment related to such services, at reduced charges or at no charge to qualified libraries and schools for the establishment and use of a program providing access to information networks;

2. To require a telecommunications carrier offering intrastate telecommunications services to provide funds for qualified libraries and schools to obtain telecommunications services, including instruction and equipment related to such services, from other vendors; and
3. To establish a telecommunications access fund to which all telecommunications carriers offering telecommunications services in the State are required to contribute.

The amendment also proposed to impose limitations on the authority granted to the Public Utilities Commission by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title ~~35~~ section 7104A, subsection 1. It proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to limit the annual cost to each telecommunications carrier of all programs to not more than 1.5% of its intrastate revenues; to ensure that funds are collected in a competitively neutral manner; to attribute any amount collected from a telecommunications carrier as an offset to any required intrastate support mechanism to preserve and advance universal service; and not to exercise its authority with respect to any telecommunications carrier other than a local exchange carrier serving more than 100,000 lines until September 30, 1997, except to the extent required by federal law.

The amendment proposed to define "qualified library," "qualified school," "telecommunications carrier" and "telecommunications service." It also proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters on the progress made in meeting the goal of information access established in Title 35A, section 7101, subsection 4 and factors promoting or impeding the achievement of that goal.

The amendment proposed to provide for the repeal of the provision granting the Public Utilities Commission additional authority and the provision imposing limitations on that authority on February 1, 2001. The amendment also proposed to make the bill retroactive to May 1, 1995. Finally, the amendment proposed to clarify that the Public Utilities Commission's approval of NYNEX's plan to provide access to information networks and services to public schools and public libraries is authorized by this legislation.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H833)** is the minority report. It replaced the bill and proposed to do the same as the majority report, except it would have permitted the Public Utilities Committee to carry out its new authority only with respect to NYNEX and would have limited the annual cost to NYNEX to the amount approved by the commission in Docket Numbers 94-123 and 94-254. It also proposed to repeal those provisions on December 31, 2000. (Not adopted)

### ***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 631 repeals an outdated provision in the law requiring the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report. It establishes a new state policy that affordable access to those information services that require a computer and rely on the use of the telecommunications network should be made available in all communities of the State without regard to geographic location. It also gives the Public Utilities Commission the authority to do the following to carry out the goals of the State's telecommunications policy.

1. It may require a telecommunications carrier offering intrastate telecommunications services to provide telecommunications services, including instruction and equipment related to such services, at reduced charges or at no charge to qualified libraries and schools for the establishment and use of a program providing access to information networks.

2. It may require a telecommunications carrier offering intrastate telecommunications services to provide funds for qualified libraries and schools to obtain telecommunications services, including instruction and equipment related to such services, from other vendors.
3. It may establish a telecommunications access fund to which all telecommunications carriers offering telecommunications services in the State are required to contribute.

The law imposes limitations on the authority granted to the Public Utilities Commission by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35A, section 7104A, subsection 1. The Public Utilities Commission shall limit the annual cost to each telecommunications carrier of all programs to not more than 1.5% of its intrastate revenues; the Public Utilities Commission shall ensure that funds are collected in a competitively neutral manner; the Public Utilities Commission shall attribute any amount collected from a telecommunications carrier as an offset to any required intrastate support mechanism to preserve and advance universal service; and the Public Utilities Commission may not exercise its authority with respect to any telecommunications carrier other than a local exchange carrier serving more than 100,000 lines until September 30, 1997, except to the extent required by federal law.

The law defines "qualified library," "qualified school," "telecommunications carrier" and "telecommunications service." It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters on the progress made in meeting the goal of information access established in Title 35, section 7101, subsection 4 and factors promoting or impeding the achievement of that goal.

The law provides for the repeal of the provision granting the Public Utilities Commission additional authority and the provision imposing limitations on that authority on February 1, 2001. It clarifies that the Public Utilities Commission's approval of NYNEX's plan to provide access to information networks and services to public schools and public libraries is authorized by the Act. Finally, the law is retroactive to May 1, 1995.

**LD 871                      An Act Concerning the Calculation of Private Fire Protection Charges                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ADAMS	ONTP	

LD 871, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to allow water utilities to establish rates for private fire protection that include recovery for a portion of the costs of the utilities' backup facilities, including mains, storage facilities and pumps.

**LD 1533                      An Act to Require the Public Utilities Commission to Ensure Telecommunications Service in Economic Development Areas                      ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
DONNELLY

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1533, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to direct the Public Utilities Commission to ensure that commercial and industrial customers located in economic development areas can obtain telecommunications services at rates comparable to rates charged in more economically advantaged areas.

**LD 1565      An Act to Create the Prospect Water Authority**

ON'

Sponsor(s)  
WHITCOMB

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1565, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to create the Prospect Water Authority.

**LD 1567      An Act to Facilitate Sewer and Water Main Extensions**

PUBLIC 636

Sponsor(s)  
OTT

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-796

LD 1567, which was carried over from the 1st Regular Session, proposed to repeal the requirement that, prior to constructing an extension, a sewer district obtain written assurance from the municipality through which the extension will pass that the extension and the user of the extension are in conformance with the municipality's plans and ordinances. It proposed to require the sewer district to instead consult with the municipality's code enforcement officer to determine compliance. It also proposed to require the licensing authority to obtain a bond from a private installer of a sewer or water line.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H796)** replaced the bill and proposed to amend the sanitary and sewer district laws that require a sanitary or sewer district to acquire from any municipality, prior to constructing a sewer extension, written assurance that the sewer extension is consistent with adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use. It proposed to specify that it is the municipal officers or their designee who provides such written assurance and to require that they respond to a written request within 45 days or the written assurance would be deemed granted.

The amendment also proposed a procedure for appealing the decision of the municipal officers to the State Planning Office. It proposed that after a hearing, if the office determines that the sewer extension proposal is not inconsistent with the adopted municipal plans and ordinances, the office should issue written assurance that the proposal is consistent with the plans and ordinances, and the district could construct the sewer extension. It proposed that the decision of the State Planning Office constitutes final agency action.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H89)** proposed to authorize a sanitary or sewer district that serves more than one municipality to construct an extension if that extension eliminates large licensed overboard discharges of 30,000 gallons per day or more by

diverting the septage into the district's treatment system. To restrict use of this provision, the amendment proposed that such an extension must be a forced main construction with no direct connections except to eliminate another overboard discharge of 30,000 gallons per day or more. Any service that does not meet these restrictions would need to receive the written assurance required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1163, subsection 1 and section 1252, subsection 7. (Not adopted)

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 636 amends the sanitary and sewer district laws that require a sanitary or sewer district to acquire from any municipality, prior to constructing a sewer extension, written assurance that the sewer extension is consistent with adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use. It specifies that it is the municipal officers or their designee who provides such written assurance and requires that they respond to a written request within 45 days or the written assurance is deemed granted.

The law also provides a procedure for appealing the decision of the municipal officers to the State Planning Office. After a hearing, if the office determines that the sewer extension proposal is not inconsistent with the adopted municipal plans and ordinances, the office shall issue written assurance that the proposal is consistent with the plans and ordinances, and the district may construct the sewer extension. The decision of the State Planning Office constitutes final agency action.

**LD 1600      An Act to Amend the Charter of Milbridge Water District**

P & S 55

Sponsor(s)  
LAYTON

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-690

LD 1600 proposed to amend the charter of the Milbridge Water District to provide for the election of the district's trustees from among the district's customers. It also proposed to remove a provision from the charter regarding restrictions on the indebtedness of the district.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H690)** proposed to require that each of the district's trustees must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of the district and reside in a household to which the district's service is provided. It also proposed to clarify that when a trustee ceases to be a resident of the district or reside in a household to which the district's service is provided, that trustee vacates the office.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 55 amends the charter of the Milbridge Water District to require that each of the district's trustees must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of the district and reside in a household to which the district's service is provided. It also clarifies that when a trustee ceases to be a resident of the district or reside in a household to which the district's service is provided, that trustee vacates the office. Finally, it removes a provision from the charter regarding restrictions on the indebtedness of the district.

**LD 1602      An Act to Amend the Bowdoinham Water District Charter**

P & S 56

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1602 proposed to amend the charter of the Bowdoinham Water District by removing reference to a debt limit.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H691)** replaced the bill and proposed to amend the title to reflect the changes. The amendment proposed to increase the debt limit of the Bowdoinham Water District from \$500,000 to \$2,500,000. The amendment also proposed to remove from the charter of the Bowdoinham Water District reference to the maximum compensation of the treasurer and all references to the compensation of the trustees. The amendment also proposed to remove the emergency preamble and the emergency clause.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 56 increases the debt limit of the Bowdoinham Water District from \$500,000 to \$2,500,000. It also removes from the charter of the Bowdoinham Water District reference to the maximum compensation of the treasurer and all references to the compensation of the trustees.

**LD 1605      An Act to Amend the Charter of the East Pittston Water District**

P & S 57  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
GUERRETTE  
BEGLEY

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-692

LD 1605 proposed to amend the charter of the East Pittston Water District by expanding the district territory, thereby allowing the district to provide drinking water to homeowners with contaminated wells. It also proposed to amend the charter by changing the date that the annual election to elect board members is to be held and clarifying how vacancies are filled.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H692)** proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill. The amendment also proposed to add a provision to the charter of the East Pittston Water District exempting the district, in cases of well contamination, from the requirement that the district petition and obtain the approval of the Public Utilities Commission before taking water to supply the inhabitants of the district with pure water, provided the district has obtained the approval of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 57 amends the charter of the East Pittston Water District by expanding the district territory, thereby allowing the district to provide drinking water to homeowners with contaminated wells. It also amends the charter by changing the date that the annual election to elect board members is to be held and clarifying how vacancies are filled. It also adds a provision to the charter exempting the district, in cases of well contamination, from the requirement that the district petition and obtain the approval of the Public Utilities Commission before taking water to supply the inhabitants of the district with pure water, provided the district has obtained the approval of the Department of Environmental Protection.

**LD 1616      An Act Relating to Pole Attachment Rate Disputes**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CARPENTER	ONTP	A	
	OTP-AM	B	
	OTP-AM	C	

LD 1616 proposed to transfer jurisdiction for settling pole attachment rate disputes from the Public Utilities Commission to the Federal Communications Commission.

**Committee Amendment "A" (§474)** is one of two minority reports. It replaced the bill and proposed to maintain the Maine Public Utilities Commission's jurisdiction over pole attachment rate disputes but to specify that the maximum rate that may be prescribed by the commission for pole attachments used by a cable television system solely to provide cable service may not be more than 10% higher than the average pole attachment rate in the other 5 New England states.

The amendment proposed to require the commission to conduct an annual survey of the pole attachment rates charged in the 6 New England states and to calculate the average pole attachment rate in the other 5 New England states for attachments to solely owned and jointly owned poles, with both 2 attachments and 3 attachments. The amendment also proposed to require the commission to submit an annual report to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy on the status of pole attachment rate disputes in the State.

Finally, the amendment proposed to specify that existing agreements between public utilities and cable companies are not affected by this legislation.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill. (Not adopted)

**Committee Amendment "B" (§475)** is one of two minority reports of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. It replaced the bill and proposed to maintain the Maine Public Utilities Commission's jurisdiction over pole attachment rate disputes but to specify that the maximum rate that may be prescribed by the commission for pole attachments by a cable television system is \$17 per year per pole. The amendment proposed to provide for repeal of the rate cap 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature. (Not adopted)

**LD 1620      An Act to Amend the Charter of the East Boothbay Water District**

P & S 62  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
HEINO

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-750  
H-760

LD 1620 proposed to increase the debt limit of the East Boothbay Water District from \$475,000 to \$900,000. It also proposed to increase the salaries of the trustees from \$50 to \$200 and the treasurer's salary from \$200 to \$500.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H/50)** replaced the bill and proposed to decrease the territory of the East Boothbay Water District. It also proposed to remove from the district charter the ceiling on the salary that may be paid to the treasurer of the district, and instead to permit the trustees to fix the treasurer's salary. The amendment also proposed to remove the ceiling on trustees' compensation and to replace it with reference to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35, section 6303.

The amendment proposed to permit the trustees of the district to incur debt on behalf of the district in an amount exceeding the current debt limit by submitting a proposed new debt limit for approval in a local referendum, and proposed specific procedures for conducting such a referendum.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H/60)** proposed to correct a technical error.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 62 decreases the territory of the East Boothbay Water District. It removes from the district charter the ceiling on the salary that may be paid to the treasurer of the district, and instead permits the trustees to fix the treasurer's salary. It also removes the ceiling on trustees' compensation and replaces it with reference to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6303.

It permits the trustees of the district to incur debt on behalf of the district in an amount exceeding the current debt limit by submitting a proposed new debt limit for approval in a local referendum, and specifies procedures for conducting such a referendum.

Chapter 62 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 26, 1996.

See also LD 1638.

**LD 1631      An Act to Increase the Borrowing Capacity of the Ashland Water and Sewer District**

P & S 63  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
DESMOND

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-761

LD 1631 proposed to increase the borrowing capacity of the Ashland Water and Sewer District from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, effective upon approval by referendum.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H/61)** replaced the bill and proposed to permit the trustees of the Ashland Water and Sewer District to incur debt on behalf of the district in an amount not exceeding \$2,000,000 without obtaining approval of the voters, and to permit the trustees to incur



debt exceeding that amount only upon approval by the inhabitants of the district. The amendment also proposed specific procedures for obtaining approval by local referendum.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 63 permits the trustees of the Ashland Water and Sewer District to incur debt on behalf of the district in an amount not exceeding \$2,000,000 without obtaining approval of the voters, and permits the trustees to incur debt exceeding that amount only upon approval by the inhabitants of the district. The law also specifies procedures for obtaining approval by local referendum.

Chapter 63 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 26, 1996.

**LD 1638      An Act to Revise the Charter of the Boothbay Harbor Water System**

P & S 74  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
HEINO  
BEGLEY

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-795

LD 1638 proposed to amend the charter of the Town of Boothbay Harbor water system to clarify that the service area of the Boothbay Harbor water system includes territory also served by the East Boothbay Water District. It also proposed to grant to the Boothbay Harbor water system the exclusive authority to provide water services to portions of Boothbay and all of Boothbay Harbor and Southport, and the nonexclusive authority to provide water services to Squirrel Island, Mouse Island and other adjacent islands.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H795)** replaced the bill and proposed to amend the title and to add a mandate preamble, an emergency preamble and an emergency clause. It proposed to repeal the charter of the Boothbay Harbor water system and to replace that original charter with updated language. The amendment proposed to clarify the service area of the Boothbay Harbor water system and to provide that any vacancies on the board of water commissioners are filled by appointment by the remaining 2 water commissioners, with the approval of the municipal officers. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 74 repeals the charter of the Boothbay Harbor water system and replaces that original charter with updated language. It clarifies the service area of the Boothbay Harbor water system and provides that any vacancies on the board of water commissioners are filled by appointment by the remaining 2 water commissioners, with the approval of the municipal officers.

Chapter 74 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 8, 1996.

**LD 1641      An Act to Amend the Maine Sanitary District Enabling Act**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1641 proposed to provide a method for the board of trustees or the residents of a sanitary district to initiate the dissolution of the sanitary district. It proposed to require the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to oversee the trustees in the winding up of the affairs of a dissolved district.

**LD 1668      An Act to Protect Sources of Drinking Water in the Towns of      ONTP**  
**Searsport, Stockton Springs and Prospect**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POVICH	ONTP      MAJ	
	OTP-AM    MIN	

LD 1668 proposed to amend the charter of the Searsport Water District as follows: to provide that, unless specifically permitted by law, the district may not provide service to any entity located outside the district to which it is not providing service on July 1, 1995; to require that any new debt incurred by the district after July 1, 1995 must be approved by a majority of the legal voters, voting in a special election, within all towns in which the district provides service; to require the district to undertake all reasonable and necessary measures to protect the water quality of Half Moon Pond and grant authority to the district to regulate body contact with and the use of engines in or on Half Moon Pond; and to require the towns of Searsport and Prospect to take all reasonable measures to preserve the water quality of Half Moon Pond.

LD 1668 also proposed to expand the territory of the Searsport Water District to include the Town of Stockton Springs, subject to referendum approval in the Town of Stockton Springs, and to add 2 new trustees to the district board to be appointed by the municipal officers of the Town of Stockton Springs. It proposed to provide for a transition for adding the 2 new trustees to the district's board.

It also proposed to provide that property in the Town of Stockton Springs may be taken to pay, in the case of default by the district, district debts only if the debt is incurred after the inclusion of the Town of Stockton Springs in the district.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H/42)** is the minority report. It replaced the bill and proposed to prohibit the Searsport Water District and the Town of Searsport and the Town of Prospect from undertaking any activity that would contribute to the degradation of the purity of the water of, and the watershed affecting, Half Moon Pond.

The amendment also proposed to provide that, unless specifically permitted by law, the district could not provide service to any entity located outside the Town of Searsport and the Town of Stockton Springs if it was not providing service to that entity on July 1, 1996. (Not adopted)

**LD 1752      An Act to Merge the Charter of the Jackman Water and Sewer      ONTP**  
**Districts**

Sponsor(s)  
DEXTER  
MILLS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1752 proposed to combine the Jackman Water District and the Jackman Sewer District.

**LD 1768      An Act to Standardize the Creation of Water Districts**

PUBLIC 616

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-811

LD 1768 is the product of a legislative staff study conducted by the staff of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. LD 1768 proposed to standardize the creation of water districts by providing enabling legislation that would define the core powers and duties of new water districts, which would be incorporated by reference in new charters.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H811)** proposed to make a number of technical and substantive changes to the bill, including clarifying the intent of the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 616 establishes standard provisions in statute that may be incorporated by reference in the charters of new water districts. The standard provisions, which are not mandatory, include the following: powers of standard districts; authority to acquire property; eminent domain; trustee selection; trustee compensation; organization; district debt; tax exemption; and rates.

The law also clarifies and consolidates statutory provisions related to water districts.

**LD 1783      An Act to Repeal the Sunset and Reporting Requirements  
Regarding Transportation of Unscheduled Freight in Casco  
Bay**

PUBLIC 559

Sponsor(s)  
ADAMS

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1783 proposed to repeal the sunset and reporting requirements relating to the transportation of unscheduled freight in Casco Bay contained in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35, Section 5111.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 559 repeals the sunset and reporting requirements relating to the transportation of unscheduled freight in Casco Bay.

**LD 1793      An Act to Extend the Electric Rate Stabilization Projects**

PUBLIC 698  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
KIEFFER

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-458

LD 1793 proposed to extend from February 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which certificates of approval for electric rate stabilization projects may be issued by the Public Utilities Commission and from May 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which the Finance Authority of Maine may make loans for electric rate stabilization projects.

It also proposed to require the Finance Authority of Maine and the Public Utilities Commission to each make an additional report to the Legislature regarding electric rate stabilization project loans and agreements.

**Committee Amendment "A" (~~S~~458)** proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 698 extends from February 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which certificates of approval for electric rate stabilization projects may be issued by the Public Utilities Commission and from May 1, 1996 to February 1, 1997 the period during which the Finance Authority of Maine may make loans for electric rate stabilization projects. It also requires the Finance Authority of Maine and the Public Utilities Commission to each make an additional report to the Legislature regarding electric rate stabilization project loans and agreements.

Chapter 698 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 11, 1996.

**LD 1816      An Act to Create Uniformity in the Granting of Electric  
and Gas Utility Easements**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
LAWRENCE

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1816 proposed to prohibit natural gas pipelines from taking by eminent domain lands or rights in lands or easements located within 300 feet of an inhabited dwelling.

**LD 1869      An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Madawaska  
Water District**

P & S 75

Sponsor(s)  
AHEARNE  
PARADIS

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-845

LD 1869 proposed to increase the debt limit of the Madawaska Water District and to replace archaic language in the district charter that pertains to water rates with newer language.

**Committee Amendment "A" (~~H~~845)** replaced the bill and proposed to permit the Madawaska Water District to issue, through its trustees, notes and bonds to an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000 without obtaining the approval of the voters for a higher debt limit. It also proposed specific procedures for establishing a higher debt limit through a local referendum.

The amendment also proposed to replace archaic language in the district charter that pertains to water rates with newer language.

### ***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 75 permits the Madawaska Water District to issue, through its trustees, notes and bonds to an amount not exceeding \$1,500,000 without obtaining the approval of the voters for a higher debt limit and specifies procedures for establishing a higher debt limit through a local referendum. It also replaces archaic language in the district charter that pertains to water rates with newer language.

## **LD 1877      An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Enhanced ~~E~~-1**

PUBLIC 672

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP      MAJ	
	ONTP      MIN	

LD 1877 is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, reported out pursuant to Public Law 1993, chapter 566, section 10. It proposed to maintain the current 2¢ E-9-1-1 surcharge through July 31, 1996 and to increase the surcharge to 20¢ beginning August 1, 1996. It proposed to sunset the surcharge on August 1, 1998.

LD 1877 also proposed to require the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs regarding expenditures from the E9-1-1 fund.

It also proposed to establish that any information obtained by a public or private safety agency, including a public safety answering point, for the purpose of providing ~~E~~-1 services that reveals the name, address or telephone number of a person placing a ~~E~~-1 call is confidential pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph A. The information could be disclosed only to public or private safety agencies for processing emergency calls and providing emergency services and to law enforcement officers for investigating criminal conduct.

LD 1877 proposed to require the Public Utilities Commission to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on or before February 1, 1997 on alternative funding mechanisms for the ~~E~~-1 system. It also proposed to give authority to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to report out legislation regarding the ~~E~~-1-1 system during the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 118th Legislature.

It also proposed to include an allocation and a fiscal note.

**Senate Amendment "A" (§§35)** proposed to restrict county governments or sheriff's departments that choose to provide E9-1-1 services that are not provided to all communities in the county from paying for those additional ~~E~~-1-1 services with property tax revenues through the county budget. (Not adopted)

### ***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 672 maintains the current 2¢ E-9-1-1 surcharge through July 31, 1996 and increases the surcharge to 20¢ beginning August 1, 1996. It sunsets the surcharge on August 1, 1998.

It requires the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs regarding expenditures from the E-9-1-1 fund.

The law establishes that any information obtained by a public or private safety agency, including a public safety answering point, for the purpose of providing E-9-1-1 services that reveals the name, address or telephone number of a person placing an E-9-1-1 call is confidential pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph A. The information may be disclosed only to public or private safety agencies for processing emergency calls and providing emergency services and to law enforcement officers for investigating criminal conduct.

The law requires the Public Utilities Commission to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on or before February 1, 1997 on alternative funding mechanisms for the E-9-1-1 system. It also gives authority to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters to report out legislation regarding the E-9-1-1 system during the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 118th Legislature.